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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

As directed by Circular 1961)Wales) and in view of the strict economy in the use of paper, this report is confined only to essential matters.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population, mid-1941, 5673, an increase of 273 on the previous year.

BIRTHS.

Male ...	...	64 (of these two were illegitimate).
Female	...	58 (of these three were illegitimate).
Total	...	122.

For Birth Rate calculation the number is reduced to 100. This gives a Birth Rate of 17.1 per 1000. Last year it was 14.08.

Still Births—One.

DEATHS.

Male ...	...	36.

Female ... 38.
Total ... 74.

Death Rate is 12.8 per 1000; previous year was 15.4
No deaths from Puerperal or other Maternal causes.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age, 2 legitimate.
No deaths from diarrhœa under two years of age.
1 death from Tuberculosis.
7 deaths from Cancer.
7 deaths from road traffic accidents and other violent causes.
21 deaths from heart disease.

WATER.—The monthly rainfall figures, taken at the Black Pool Reservoirs, were as follows:—

January, 1.39in.; February, 3.14in.; March, 3.96in.; April, 1.23in.; May, 1.68in.; June, 1.8in.; July, 1.55in.; August, 3.15in.; September, .68in.; October, 2.91in.; November, 2.99in.; December, 1.78in. Total, 26.26 inches.

The lowest reading of water supplying the reservoirs was taken on 21st August, when the gauge registered 70,000 gallons per day.

At the end of the dry period, the lower pool was 5ft. 0in. below Top Water Level, the second and third pools were full. There was an ample supply to all houses throughout the year. A new pumping station was erected at Bronybuckley, with a 2,000 gallons storage tank on the Hethercroft and a main extension to the Westwood Estate. Pumping now takes place each day and complaints of lack of pressure and water shortage from the upper houses have ceased.

The minimum waste line registered on night inspection was 1300 gallons per hour.

The pressure averages 50 lbs. per sq. inch.

Mr. T. Gregson Williams of the Welsh Board of Health made two inspections of the Black Pool Reservoirs and the gathering ground during the year.

Fifty-seven samples of water were submitted for analysis to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Aberystwyth; five were taken of the town supply, nine from Guilsfield, two from private property, twenty-six from the springs on the Welsh Harp, nine from St. Garmons Well and siix from Madeleys Spring.

All those taken from the Welshpool supply were satisfactory. Those from the Guilsfield supply shewed that pollution was taking place, and to counteract this a high percentage of chlorine was applied with good results.

The analysis of St. Garmons Well and Madeleys Spring shewed that pollution was taking place at the source and arrangements were made for the application of artificial manure to the fields immediately adjoining St. Garmons Well.

Samples are being taken to test the quality of the spring water, and it is hoped that as a result of the manurial restriction better results will be obtained.

The possibility of an additional spring supply from Trinity Well, on the Welsh Harp, was explored and weekly gaugings were taken. The results were as follows: —

TRINITY WELL.

Date.	*Spring No. 2.* *Gallons per day.*
7.8.41	37,756
14.8.41	37,756
21.8.41	29,963
28.8.41	29,963
4.9.41	29,963

11.9.41	29,963
18.9.41	19,265
25.9.41	19,265
2.10.41	19,265
9.10.41	16,312
16.10.41	16,312
23.10.41	16,312
30.10.41	29,963
6.11.41	29,963
13.11.41	29,970
20.11.41	29,970
27.11.41	34,560
4.12.41	43,524
11.12.41	48,840
17.12.41	48,840
24.12.41	54,594

The quality of this water as evidenced by the twenty-six analysis submitted to Aberystwyth was uniformly high and shewed that it could be used as drinking water without filtration, as the Analyst reports an absence of faecal coli in all Samples taken from the spring heads.

These investigations may prove of immense value to the town after the war.

Two other small springs were located during November, 1941, and arrangements have been made for gauging these during the Summer and Autumn of 1942.

GUILSFIELD WATER.

At the end of the dry period the level in the tank had dropped 2ft. 6in. below Top Water Line. The lowest supply to the tank was 1,440 gallons per day. This was recorded on the 29th September. On the 29th December the consumption of the villages was 1875 gallons per day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There were no extensions to the mains, the usual cleaning and flushing of sections of the sewer was carried out and there was no flooding of the system in the built-up area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—

No action was found necessary.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No change.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provisions of the Shops Acts have been complied with. No court proceedings took place.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action.

SWIMMING BATHS.—No action.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the Borough have been inspected periodically.

HOUSING.

The Housing Committee are taking a keen interest in a post-war building programme and surveys are being made of the undeveloped land adjoining the built-up area, in the hope that it will lead to the benefits of town planning and give the Council power to direct and control all building activity.

This is an ambitious programme, and its effect on the other public services will need consideration, but the results of the Committee work will be watched with interest by all burgesses.

MILK.

Nine applications were received for registration under the

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and eight producers were registered.

At the end of the year 23 producers in the Borough held accredited licences, as compared with eleven last year, and there were nine producers registered for supplying T.T. milk.

The Marketing of clean milk is of the utmost importance and all possible steps should be taken to ensure that the public obtain the maximum benefit from milk purchased by strict supervision of the methods of production.

The personal factor is highly important, and so too is the question of water supply. After the war, all milk producting premises should be supplied with an ample supply of good water for the purpose of cooling and cleaning.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat is being supplied from the Central slaughter-house at Newtown. The keeping quality gives cause for anxiey during the summer months, but in all the circumstances the service is quite good and there are few grounds for complaint. During the year 118 lbs. of beef were condemned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1941 the following cases of Infectious Disease were notified: —

Scarlet Fever.—16, all of a mild type and all recovered.

Diphtheria.—Of the 11 cases notified 8 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Monkmoor. One patient died there; all the others made a good recovery.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—2 cases, both got well.

Typhoid.—Nil.

Paratyphoid.—1 case in the outer district, which recovered.

Pneumonia.—7.

Measles.—3. All recovered.

Whooping Cough.—12. All recovered.

Erysipelas.—3.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.—3. Two cases removed to Isolation Hospital, where one died. The other two cases recovered. All in outer district.

Tuberculosis.—3 cases of Pulmonary. One case transferred here from away, died; the two others are under treatment by the Tuberculosis Physician. There were also 2 cases of non-pulmonary notified, viz., a case of cervical glands and a case of spinal caries.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CRUMP.